

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed April 9, 2003, claims 1-5 under 35 USC 102(e) were rejected as being anticipated by McNally (U.S. Patent No. 6,520,854).

The foregoing rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 6-7 are added. Claims 1-7 are pending and under consideration.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-5 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER MCNALLY (U.S. Patent No. 6,520,854)

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by McNally (U.S. Patent No. 6,520,854). A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

Independent claim 1 of the Applicant's claimed invention recites, "...a motor having a rotation shaft; a worm gear installed on the rotation shaft of the motor; and a driving gear rotating while geared to the worm gear and to the gear provided on the roulette, transmitting power generated from the motor to the roulette." Accordingly, the drive gear is geared to the worm gear in order to rotate and transmits power to the roulette, thereby rotating the roulette.

In contrast to the Applicant's claimed invention, McNally discloses using a small electric drive motor that is spring-loaded to retain a drive roller in contact with the side edge of a roulette wheel in order to drive the roulette wheel. McNally, col. 3:50-67, col. 4:1-67. McNally does not discuss or support using a worm gear to transmit power from the motor to the rubber drive roller. McNally, in FIGS. 1-4, col. 3:50-67, col. 4:1-67.

Therefore, for at least this reason, independent claim 1 is distinguishable over the reference relied upon.

Similarly, independent claim 3 of the Applicant's claimed invention recites, "... a worm gear installed on the rotation shaft of the motor; and a driving gear rotating while geared to the worm gear and to the gear provided on the roulette, transmitting power generated from the motor to the roulette." Therefore, for at least the reasons that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the reference relied upon, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 3 also distinguishes over the reference relied upon.

Independent claim 4 of the Applicant's claimed invention is a method claim and similarly recites, "... transmitting power from a motor by directly applying a force from a worm gear

installed on a rotation shaft of the motor to a drive gear engaged with the worm gear and the gear provided on the roulette." As previously discussed, McNally does not discuss or support transmitting force from a motor to a roulette wheel via a worm gear installed on a rotation shaft of the motor. Therefore, for at least the reasons that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the reference relied upon, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 4 also distinguishes over the reference relied upon.

Claims 2 and 5 depend directly from claims 1 and 4, respectively. Therefore, for at least the reasons that claims 1 and 4 patentably distinguish over the reference relied upon, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2 and 5 also distinguish over the reference relied upon.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1-7 are pending and under consideration.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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